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BTL
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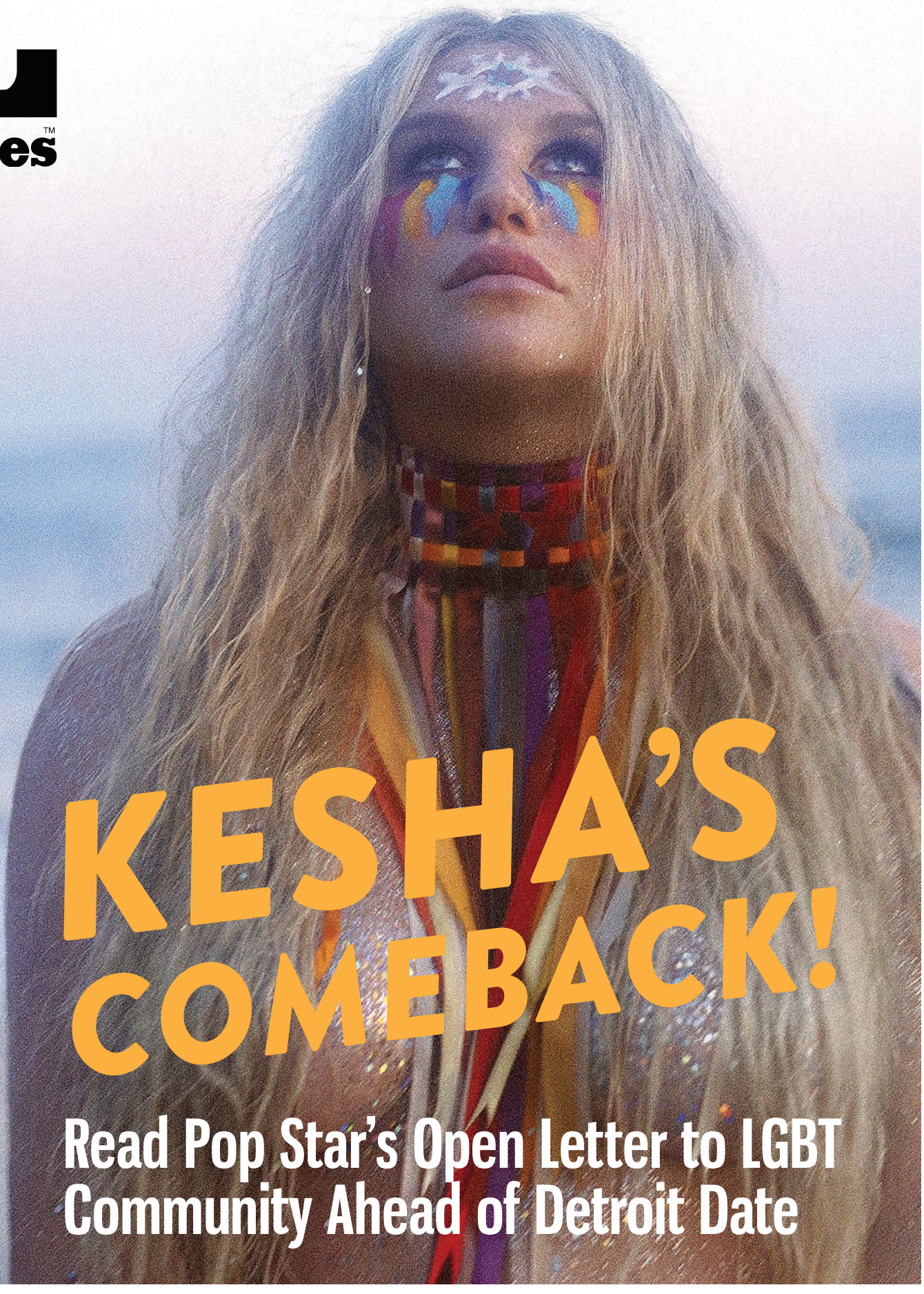
Love Wins in the City of Jackson
PAGE 4

First Ever Lesbian Candidate Runs for State Attorney General
PAGE 6

OU Ranked as Most LGBTQ-Friendly Campus in Michigan
PAGE 26

'The Jenny Jones Show' Killer Released from Prison
PAGE 11

Our Guide to the Best LGBTQ Events
PAGE 24



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Love Wins in the City of Jackson
PAGE 4
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AUGUST 24, 2017 | VOL. 2534 |

COVER
Kesha's Comeback

WORSHIP
14 What Charlottesville Has Taught Us
15 Divine Peace MCC Welcomes New Interim Pastor

NEWS
4 Love Wins in the City of Jackson
6 EQMI Opens Pop-Up Office in Bay City
6 First Ever Lesbian Candidate Runs for State Attorney General
11 'Camouflaged' Creates Memories, Extends a Family
11 'The Jenny Jones Show' Killer Released from Prison
12 Texas Anti-Transgender Bathroom Bill Dies
12 Trump Blames 'Both Sides' for Violence in Charlottesville

OPINION
16 Parting Glances
16 Mombian
17 Creep of the Week: Sam Clovis

LIFE
20 'Patti Cake$' Breakout Star Danielle Macdonald on Working for Ryan Murphy, Her Gay Role Struggle and Drag Queens
22 Kesha's Open Letter to the LGBTQ Community
22 Hear Me Out
24 Happenings
28 Classifieds
29 Puzzle and Comic

Join The Conversation @ PrideSource.com

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

26 OU Ranked as Most LGBTQ-Friendly Campus in Michigan

27 Out Loud Chorus Welcomes New Artistic Director

ENTERTAINMENT

20 'Patti Cake$' Breakout Star Danielle

WORSHIP

15 Divine Peace MCC Welcomes New Interim Pastor

14 What Charlottesville Has Taught Us

SAVE THE DATE

11 'Camouflaged' Creates Memories, Extends a Family

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PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP
20222 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone 734.293.7200

PUBLISHERS
Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

MEMBER OF
Michigan Press Assoication
National Gay Media Association
National Gay & Lesbian Chamber
Q Syndicate

EDITORIAL
Editor in Chief
Susan Horowitz, 734.293.7200 x 12
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

Entertainment Editor
Chris Azzopardi, 734.293.7200 x 24
chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

Senior News Editor
Kate Opalewski, 734.293.7200 x 10
kate@pridesource.com

News & Feature Writers
Emell Derra Adolphus, Todd A. Heywood, Jiquanda Johnson, Eve Kucharski, Ellen Knoppow, Jason Michael, David Ryals

CREATIVE
Webmaster & MIS Director
Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

Columnists
Charles Alexander, Michelle E. Brown, Mikey Rox, Dan Woog, D'Anne Witkowski Gwendolyn Ann Smith

Cartoonists
Paul Berg, Dave Brousseau

Contributing Photographers
Andrew Potter
Alexander Godin

ADVERTISING & SALES
Director of Sales
Jan Stevenson, 734.293.7200 x 22
jan@pridesource.com

Sales Representatives
Ann Cox, 734.293.7200 x 13
anncox@pridesource.com

Donelle Kremke, 734.293.7200 x 16
donelle@pridesource.com

National Advertising Representative
Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

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Love Wins in the City of Jackson

Community Raises Over $40,000 to Support LGBTQ Victims of Arson

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Hundreds gathered for a fundraiser on Aug. 15 to support Nikki Joly and Chris Moore, an LGBTQ couple in the city of Jackson who lost their home and their pets to arson on Aug. 10.

The community rallied in support and to share ideas about how to move forward while the incident is still under investigation by the Jackson Police Department in partnership with the Ann Arbor Resident Agency of the Detroit Field Office of the FBI.

"I love all of you...I want to say to those of you who are scared, don't be, be angry and channel that anger for good. Tomorrow we begin rebuilding," said Joly before people began chanting "Love wins" inside St. Johns United Church of Christ, home of the Jackson Pride Center, which opened in February.

Rev. Patti Kenney, pastor with the church for about a year and a half, said, "My heart is full. The community has shown that love is strong and will win." While she is trying her best not to jump the gun and place judgment as the community awaits details about what happened, Kenney said, "We don't know, but if someone caused it, my heart breaks for them the way this kind of act breaks their soul. My yearning for them is healing."

To heal is one of the reasons Carol Lellis came to the event. A Jackson resident for eight years, Lellis said the arson followed by the news out of Charlottesville, Virginia has been overwhelming.

"This helps me heal and fires me up to be an activist. It's time to take to the streets. We've been complacent for too long as hatred rears its ugly head."

Lellis was there with her friend Peg Stout-Dickey, a Jackson resident for 62 years.

"Jackson is a great place to live. We've had our problems, but it's a great little community. There is so much togetherness and so much love. This is what Jackson is right here, not what happened," said Stout-Dickey, who remembers feeling "shell-shocked" to hear some members of her community express their hatred and bigotry while fighting for the non-discrimination ordinance, which passed in April.

"I couldn't believe it. I think it's appalling that our mayor hasn't stood up and said something. I haven't heard a word," she said.

This sentiment was expressed by several others in attendance, who are anxious for the mayoral race in November between two candidates - current Mayor Bill Jors and Vice Mayor Derek Dobies.

"It's very apparent to more than just myself that our mayor is not here," said Carl Struble, who is credited with being the driving force behind the idea of the Jackson Pride Center. He

Chris Moore, Nikki Joly and Barbara Shelton, director of the United Center for Caring in Jackson. BTL photos Kate Opalewski

points to the fact that Jors did not support the non-discrimination ordinance, which Struble said he can understand.

"He has his reasons. However, this is not an NDO issue. This is about people's lives and you should be here, at least to express his personal condolences, and for that I'm a little disappointed in the mayor."

Despite that, Struble said, "I've lived in Jackson County for 25 years. This is the best place I've ever lived. I love the people here. It ripped my heart out when this happened to Chris and Nikki's house. This can't stand and will not stand. There are too many good people here in this city."

Close friends of the couple, Jean Herrick and Breanna Spiteri-Phillips, agree the arson is telling.

"It really brings it home. People have said we don't need a non-discrimination ordinance because things like this don't happen in Jackson and my response has always been do we have to wait until it does? Now, it has," said Herrick, a Jackson County resident for 25 years, who is wondering, like many others, what she needs to do to protect herself.

"I believe this is an aberration and I don't see this as the norm, but we need leadership that takes a stand and says this is not acceptable. If you stop it when it's just words, it's not going to build into violence. If you don't stop it, then people think it's OK and it escalates and eventually, this is what you get."

When asked what the community needs right now, Spiteri-Phillips, a Jackson resident for 11 years, said, "We need unity."

Supporters of Joly and Moore said they have followed their lead as allies since the fight began for the non-discrimination ordinance.

Aaron Wilson of Jackson said he is "inspired by very normal people doing extraordinary things."

He expressed his disappointment that after more than 1,000 people showed up for Jackson's inaugural pride celebration on Aug. 5, it has been "overshadowed" by this incident. Wilson reminds people what a "huge success" that is for the small town.

When asked about a lack of leadership in the community, Del Belcher of Spring Arbor said, "The mayor is a non-partisan position. It's your responsibility to take care of your community. If you're not doing that, you're not doing your job."

Beyond that, he was "excited to see so many people here, across generations, coming together to support each other" as he said they did at city council meetings over the last several months.

"I've lived here my whole life. It's horrifying that something like this has happened in my hometown. It feels like a violation and it wasn't my house," said Carrie Heider Grant. "I can't imagine their heartache. We're here to show them that's not what Jackson is. This group of people rallies like nothing I've ever seen. There is a lot of love and support in our community right now."

For those who do not step up to help or who stand by in silence, Heider Grant said, "Shame on them. It's embarrassing."

Her friend, Karysa Trombley, hesitated to say she is scared, but she is. With two children, she is using this as an opportunity to teach them.

"I am helping them understand why this happened. They are learning a lot about empathy" she said noting that "Love is a lot louder than hate right now and I am proud of our future mayor Derek Dobies for his support."

Lora Tucker, CEO of CenterLink, the community of LGBT centers across the country called in from Fort Lauderdale, Florida to offer her support for the couple.

"As we continue to face firsthand incidents of anti-LGBT vandalism, harassment, intimidation and domestic terrorism, we must continue to choose love over hate and positive action over lethargic blindness," said Tucker, who provided a scholarship on speakerphone to Joly so he can attend the Executive Director and Board Leadership Summit in Scottsdale, Arizona in September.

"What I do know for a fact is that leadership makes a difference and Nikki and Chris, I know that your leadership and the leadership of your team at the Jackson Pride Center is making a difference. Harvey Milk said, 'Hope is never silent.' You continue through your positive actions to inspire others and provide that hope."

Barbara Shelton, director of the United Center for Caring at the church confirmed more than $20,000 was raised at last night's event. With monies raised through other online fundraising sites, over $40,000 has been raised so far in five days to help Joly and Moore reach their goal of $50,000 to purchase a new home.

Breanna Spiteri-Phillips and Jean Herrick

Response from Leadership in Michigan

Asked for comment, Gov. Rick Snyder's deputy press secretary Tanya Baker said he cannot comment on a specific law enforcement investigation that is still ongoing, but points to a statement Snyder issued on Aug. 14 in response to Charlottesville, Virginia that is now inclusive of Jackson.

His statement reads: "History has shown time and again that hate begets hate and violence begets violence. On the other hand, unity and cooperation have shown how much we can accomplish when we respect our neighbors, embrace our differences and focus our energy on how we can all move forward and prosper together. Hate speech and violence are not welcome in Michigan - it's not representative of who Michiganders truly are or of the future we want to build for our children."

Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) told BTL, "This is very disturbing news. Nikki and Chris were victims of a terrible and hateful act. Those responsible should be brought to justice immediately."

Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI) told BTL, "Michigan's LGBT families have the right to feel safe in their homes and their communities, and this kind of hatred and violence has no place in our state. While the investigation is still ongoing, it's clear that Nikki and Chris have suffered a tremendous loss and my thoughts are with them and with members of Michigan's LGBT community who are understandably shaken by this terrible action."

During the fight for the non-discrimination ordinance in Jackson, Consumers Energy Vice President Daniel Malone spoke at meetings, telling city council that the largest employer in the county supports the inclusiveness the NDO would provide, as indicated by a letter submitted to Dobies in November 2016.

Malone told council, "Jackson is in competition for residents, business, and employees, and inclusiveness is an important factor that attracts all three. Beyond the important issues of fairness and equality lies an additional reason for cities to take matters of equality seriously - it is good business. But this isn't just about good business or an inclusive community - it's about doing what's right for so many who are negatively impacted by discrimination - and it happens right here in Michigan."

On Aug. 16, Senior Director of Strategic Communications & Public Relations, Megan M. Brown wrote: "Consumers Energy's vision is 'world-class performance delivering hometown service,' and being a world-class company means we have an unwavering commitment to supporting an inclusive workforce and community. We are keeping the family in our thoughts at this time."

Opportunities to contribute online are available at the You Caring links www.youcaring.com/nikkijolyandchrismoore-902381 and www.youcaring.com/nikkijoly-902118. Donations can also be made at www.unitedcenterforcaring.com.

Hundreds gathered for a fundraiser on Aug. 15 to support Nikki Joly and Chris Moore at St. Johns United Church of Christ in Jackson.

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EQMI Opens Pop-Up Office in Bay City

BY BTL STAFF

Equality Michigan's Department of Victim Services will hold office hours in Bay city on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. beginning Aug. 29, then again Sept. 26, Oct. 24 and Nov. 28 at the Unity of Bay City, 3736 State Street Rd. Walk-ins are welcome.

EQMI DVS support and advocacy services are directed to work with LGBTQ, SGL, and HIV-affected people experiencing various forms of violence, including domestic violence, sexual assault, hate violence, harassment, and discrimination. The organization works to center the needs of people who have been harmed and, as advocates, they know their role is to support victims however that takes shape. Therefore, EQMI DVS services are survivor-centric and tailored to the specific needs of each person.

In addition to providing direct advocacy services to survivors, EQMI DVS strives to ensure that organizations, whether governmental or non-governmental, are supported in offering inclusive, welcoming services to LGBTQ and SGL communities. EQMI DVS partners with organizations throughout the state to offer more robust services in addition to offering training and technical assistance on a regular basis.

EQMI is a founding member of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, which compiles and publishes two annual reports on hate violence and intimate partner violence happening in local communities. Those who have experienced discrimination, violence or harassment are encouraged to report it anonymously or online in order to get support from an advocate.

EQMI DVS Additional Office Hours

Traverse City
Every fourth Monday of each month from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Aug. 28 and Sept. 25.
Imagine Health, 121 S. Garfield Ave.

Grand Rapids
Every second Friday of each month from 2-7 p.m.
Earlier hours available by appointment
Sept. 8, Oct. 13 and Nov. 10
Grand Rapids Pride Center, 343 Atlas Ave SE

Every second Tuesday of each month from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Sept. 7, Oct. 12 and Nov. 9
HQ Grand Rapids, 320 State St SE

Detroit
Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Equality Michigan, 19641 W. Seven Mile Rd.

For more information, visit https://equalitymi.org/victim-services.

First Ever Lesbian Candidate Runs for State Attorney General

Dana Nessel to Michigan Citizens: 'You Will Be Safe, You Will Be Protected and Hate Will Not Win.'

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

ANN ARBOR – When civil rights and criminal attorney Dana Nessel officially announced her campaign for state attorney general on Aug. 15 she said she will work to protect all the people, including members of the LGBTQ community.

"Instead of harassing them, persecuting them and making them feel like they don't belong in our state," said Nessel at a press conference in Braun Court. That's where she and other attorneys, Kenneth Mogill and Carole Stanyar, celebrated the legalization of same-sex marriage nationwide with clients April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse following the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on Obergefell v. Hodges on June 26, 2015.

During that four-year battle, Nessel said she "grew to loathe the office of the Michigan attorney general and all that it stood for" after she said Bill Schuette's office spent millions of dollars fighting against marriage equality.

Nessel said she is seeking to fill the office of the attorney general with the values that she believes a majority of the residents in Michigan care about. Her first priority will be to shut down Enbridge's oil line 5. She will go after corporations that create environmental hazards, protect consumers subjected to financial deception and fraud by "unscrupulous" debt collectors, and protect minority populations against hate crimes – something she is familiar with doing as the president of Fair Michigan. The non-profit organization created the Justice Project in July 2016 to prosecute hate crimes against the LGBTQ community in partnership with Wayne County Prosecutor Kym L. Worthy, who is one of the first public officials to endorse Nessel's attorney general bid.

"I wholeheartedly support Dana Nessel's candidacy. She has the breadth of experience, knowledge, and commitment to public service, to be an excellent Attorney General," said Worthy. "As the Wayne County Prosecutor, and as a trial judge before that, I know Dana to be a tenacious but fair prosecutor, a committed advocate for victims of crime, and a tireless champion for civil rights for all the people."

Dana Nessel with her twin sons and her wife, Alanna Maguire, in Ann Arbor's Braun Court. BTL Photo: Kate Opalewski

Nessel said she will create a civil rights division to prosecute housing and voting rights discrimination. She will focus on access to fair housing and lending opportunities, equal access to employment and educational opportunities, and equal access for individuals with disabilities.

She will create an auto insurance fraud division, increase resources to combat elder abuse and neglect, and support and protect the rights of women including their right to choose, safe access to medical treatment and birth control.

As a former Wayne County assistant

See next page

prosecutor, Nessel will create a conviction integrity unit to investigate and prosecute acts of police misconduct and a licensing division so "bad cops" don't move from department to department when they've committed acts of excessive force or violations of the public trust.

She will provide police officers with the resources and support they require to do their jobs properly and they will be compensated with decent pay and benefits.

"Dana's the real deal." said Ellis Stafford, retired Deputy Chief of the Michigan State Police and president of the Metro Detroit Chapter of the National Organization of Black Law Executives. "She understands law enforcement, and she knows what needs to happen to improve both our response to crime and our relationship to the communities we serve and protect."

To pay for these programs, Nessel said, "It's time Michigan to remove marijuana from our penal code. It's time to stop using millions of tax dollars investigating, testing and prosecuting marijuana cases while we still have rape kits sitting on the shelf and cold-case murders which go unsolved. With thousands of opioid overdoses taking place in our state, how much longer can we pretend that marijuana is a worthy target of Michigan's war against drugs?"

When asked if she forsees any barriers as a lesbian running for office, Nessel said, "The ironic thing about that question is that I've had far more people ask me whether it would be a problem potentially having three women on the Democratic ticket than the fact that I am an openly gay person."

The two other women are Gretchen Whitmer, the Democrats' nominee for governor, and former Wayne State University law school dean Jocelyn Benson for secretary of state.

"It really tells me a lot about where our country has gone. On one hand, it's great to have consumers more accepting of openly gay people running for office. On the other hand, it doesn't bode well for women in this country or in this state that people are more concerned about that," she said. "So I hope that I can be a good representative and I hope if I'm able to obtain this seat, I want children all around our state who identify as LGBTQ to know that as long as you're willing to work hard and study the issues and be a good person, the sky is the limit for you and you can achieve anything you set out to achieve. Your sexual orientation or gender identity is not going to make a difference. It's who you are, not what you are."

Nessel, 48, is a managing partner in the Nessel and Kessel law firm in downtown Detroit and lives in Plymouth.

Attorney Dana Nessel said she is seeking to fill the office of the attorney general with the values that she believes a majority of the residents in Michigan care about.

Her push for a ballot proposal to update and expand Michigan's Elliott Larsen Civil Rights Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity for the 2018 election year will be placed on hold.

However, State Rep. Jon Hoadley (D-Kalamazoo) and Sen. Rebekah Warren (D-Ann Arbor) reintroduced legislation in May to protect Michigan's LGBTQ community from discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations. Members of the community are encouraged to contact their legislators to support this bill.

"I certainly didn't see the funding in 2018 for us to move forward unfortunately and I had to do what was realistic in that case, but maybe if I'm able to obtain the position of attorney general I can do lots of things for the community in place of the ballot proposal," said Nessel, adding that it's possible it will be brought up again in 2020. "I think for a ballot proposal, there are no better spokespeople for those issues than people who currently hold statewide office. Maybe it will give those proposals a better shot."

Nessel is the first candidate to announce a run to succeed Schuette, who can't run for reelection because of term limits. It is not yet confirmed whether other Democrats – former U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Michigan Pat Miles, state Rep. Tim Greimel of Auburn Hills or Macomb County Prosecutor Eric Smith – will run.

A Detroit Free Press report said state Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker of Lawton and Speaker of the House Tom Leonard of DeWitt are the names most often mentioned on the Republican side as potential candidates for attorney general.

The nominees for attorney general, secretary of state and lieutenant governor will be chosen by political party delegates at statewide conventions around Labor Day next year. Michigan voters will decide by election who wins on Nov. 6, 2018.

Follow Nessel's efforts on Facebook http://gaybe.am/hy.

What is TRUVADA for PrEP?

TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is a prescription medicine that is used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1. To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA for PrEP?

Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. Do not take TRUVADA to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-negative.
- **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** If you have flu-like symptoms, you could have recently become infected with HIV-1. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting or at any time while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP:**
  - Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months.
  - If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- **To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:**
  - Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
  - Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
  - Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
  - Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV and stop taking TRUVADA, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.** If you are HIV-1 positive, you need to take other medicines with TRUVADA to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- **Also take** certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

What are the other possible side effects of TRUVADA for PrEP?

Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

- **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA.
- **Too much lactic acid in your blood** (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- **Severe liver problems,** which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- **Bone problems,** including bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

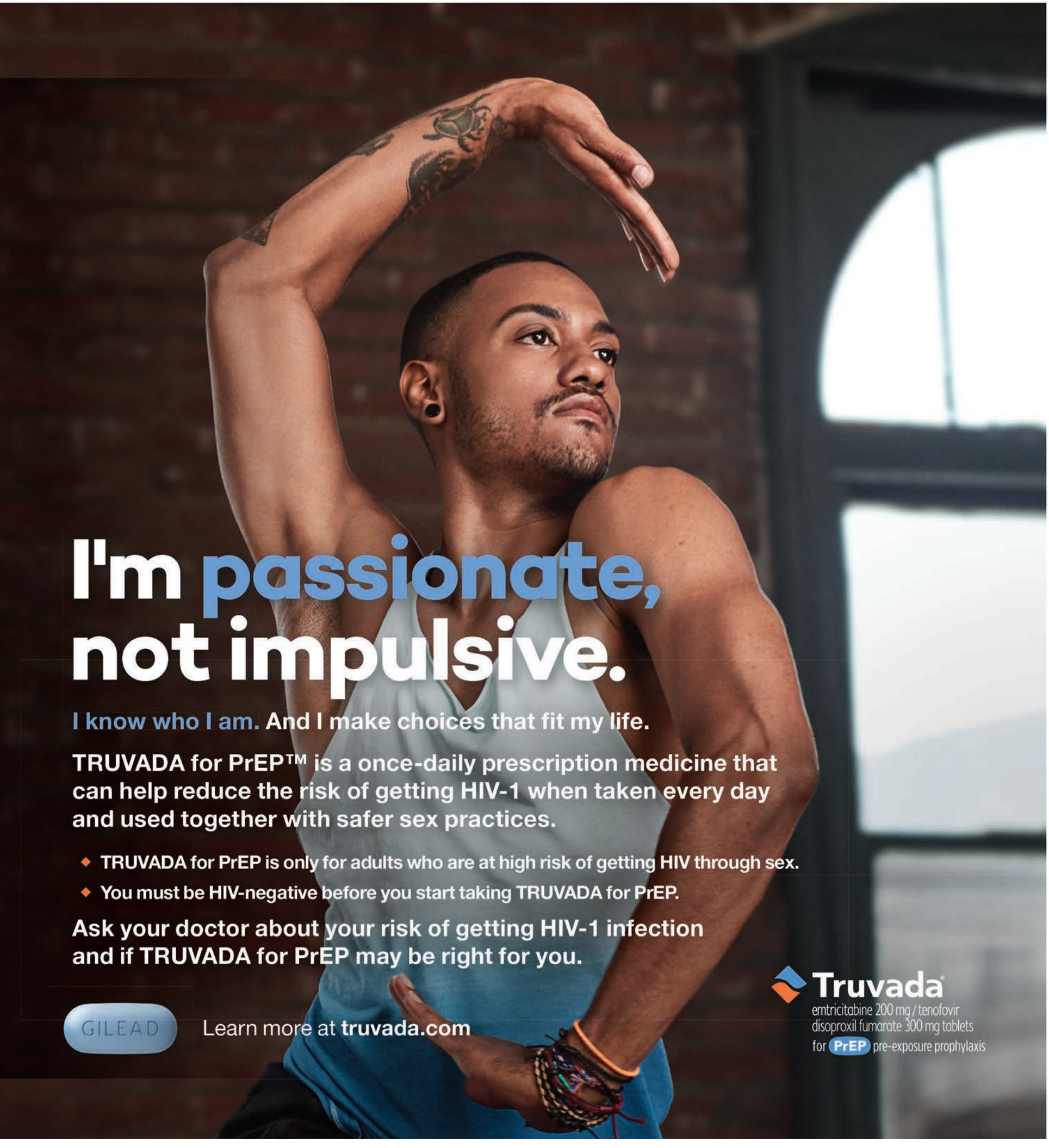
Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP are stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA for PrEP?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- **If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** It is not known if TRUVADA can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- **If you take certain other medicines** with TRUVADA, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include certain medicines to treat hepatitis C (HCV) infection.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Important Facts about TRUVADA for PrEP including important warnings on the following page.


I'm passionate,
not impulsive.
I know who I am. And I make choices that fit my life.
TRUVADA for PrEP™ is a once-daily prescription medicine that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when taken every day and used together with safer sex practices.
TRUVADA for PrEP is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex.
You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
Ask your doctor about your risk of getting HIV-1 infection and if TRUVADA for PrEP may be right for you.
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IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about taking TRUVADA for PrEP™ (pre-exposure prophylaxis) to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. This does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your medicine.

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must be HIV-1 negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-1 negative.
- **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include flu-like symptoms, tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin. Tell your healthcare provider if you have had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.** Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you think you were exposed to HIV-1 or have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
- **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- See the "How To Further Reduce Your Risk" section for more information.

TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA for PrEP is a prescription medicine used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1.

- To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.**
- Take certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

- **Take 1 tablet once a day, every day**, not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- Use TRUVADA for PrEP together with condoms and safer sex practices.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months. You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the "Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP" section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- Bone problems.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP include stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight.

These are not all the possible side effects of TRUVADA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP.

BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- Have any other medical conditions.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can pass to the baby in breast milk.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with TRUVADA for PrEP.

HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about TRUVADA for PrEP. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV infection.
- Go to start.truvada.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit start.truvada.com for program information.

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WORSHIP

What Charlottesville Has Taught Us

BY REV. DR. ROLAND STRINGFELLOW

The demonstration that filled the air with chants of "Blood and Soil" and "Jews will not replace us" on the campus of the University of Virginia on Aug. 11 emboldened that mob to continue their hate-filled rally the following day. As many of us watched live on television or through news accounts, what happened next shocked and outraged us as we wondered if we were actually seeing, in the year 2017, proclaimed Neo-Nazis, the KKK and White Nationalist march through the streets of an American town.

But should we really be so shocked and outraged, disbelieving our eyes? The seeds for this rally were planted months ago. After all, it was then candidate Donald Trump who used racial slurs (calling Senator Elizabeth Warren "Pocahontas") and racial stereotypes to capture the hearts of his base: "*When Mexico is sending its people, they're not sending their best..They're bring drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume are good people." 1*

While we grieve the violence and loss of life that took place that weekend, those events exposed to many throughout the world what others knew all along – when you build a nation through the exploitation and subjugation of peoples and create political, legal and educational systems to maintain an inferior status, it is just a matter of time that what has been present all along will become exposed in horrific ways.

We do not live in a "post-racial," "colorblind," or "equal society" that anyone can make it if they work hard enough. We cannot point to the election of Barak Obama as evidence to the contrary.

It was the vow of Republicans to make him a one-term president and they constantly reminded him, through their opposition, that although he rose to the highest position of our land, he was still considered a "boy" who had better learn his place. In fact, if you want to understand what the Trump political agenda is, take a look at the accomplishments of President Obama. Trump is hell bent on reversing and erasing the legacy of the first African-American President, even if causes great harm to the Republican Party, the nation and our globe (I refer to the ad nauseam attempts to repeal "Obamacare," the withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord and nullifying gun-control measures that would ban those with mental illness from purchasing firearms. Why? Because this "could endanger the rights of law abiding citizens").

We do not live in a "post-racial," "colorblind," or "equal society" that anyone can make it if they work hard enough. We cannot point to the election of Barak Obama as evidence to the contrary.

The events from that weekend in Charlottesville exposed the racism that is prevalent, yet often subtitle in America. It is what author Michelle Alexander noted in her book "The New Jim Crow": "[*American] racial caste systems do not require racial hostility or overt bigotry to thrive. They need only racial indifference, as Martin Luther King Jr. warned." 2*

Many of us have been indifferent to the racial bias and prejudice that is integrated into our culture, accepting it as "just the way things are." But what does America do when we do have racial hostility and overt bigotry in our streets? Some would say, "I am a political conservative on the 'Right,' but I do not agree with those who marched waving Nazi and Confederate flags." But what do you do when those who did march with those flags are claiming the description of "The Right" as in "Unite the Right?" Some on the "Left" would say, "I don't have a racist bone in my body and although my parents may have uttered racial epithets on occasion while I grew up, I believe in a global unity of all people." But what do you do when the movement to squash "globalism" is gaining momentum?

Charlottesville has taught us that although we have grown accustomed to race and culture-neutral language, like the "War on Crime/Drugs" or "Nationalism" being used as code words against non-WASP people and for the maintenance of white supremacy, we are now at a decision point. Will we continue to allow covert and overt racism to go unchecked or will we speak on behalf of a nation where "all are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness?"

Charlottesville has provided each of us with the choice to decide what type of person, what type of community and what type of country will we be. We can feel bad for "both sides" during that conflict by making our expressions known on social media or we can do more than feel bad and actually "do" something to change the way we see and think of others. We can "do" something to stand in solidarity with those who are targeted by White Nationalists or those impacted by the passive forms of racial bias. We can "do" something by challenging the political, legal and educational systems that are slanted in favor of one group of "hard-working" people while another group is characterized as "lazy or who refuse to work for what they have." We have our work cut out for us. Are we up for the challenge?

Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow is the Senior Pastor and Teacher of the Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit. www.mccdetroit.org

1 Donald J. Trump, on his campaign trail, June 16, 2015.

2 Michelle Alexander, The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness, (New York, The New Press, 2012), 14 on Amazon Kindle.

Rev. Carolyn Mobley-Bowie with her wife Adrain.

Divine Peace MCC Welcomes New Interim Pastor

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

As the granddaughter of a Baptist preacher, Rev. Carolyn Mobley-Bowie made the decision at the age of 10 to be a follower of Jesus, but for a lesbian in a traditional Baptist community, that meant having to live a double life.

Her journey began in Sanford, Florida, a relatively small town between Orlando and Daytona Beach where she stayed until graduating high school. Mobley-Bowie graduated from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas earning a bachelor of arts degree in religious education. During that time, she did some "experimenting." Not long after, while working at a large Baptist church in Orlando, she had her first relationship with a woman.

Mobley-Bowie remembers reading an article about the Metropolitan Community Church where gays and lesbians worship God.

"It was not even a very favorable article. It was kind of putting them down as playing church and having sex on the altar and crazy things I knew couldn't be true. So I made myself a promise. I said one of these days I'm going to Los Angeles and visit the home church and see what it was all about," said Mobley-Bowie, who recalls when she came out to her mother.

"She asked me a very interesting question. She said, 'How do you know you don't want to be with a man if you've never been with a man?' And I said believe me mama I know," said Mobley-Bowie.

Nevertheless and perhaps for her mother's sake, she tried to be with a man – one time.

"I knew I'd never do it again," she said. "I never looked back. I knew I was a lesbian and I was born that way and it wasn't something I decided to do. It was something I chose to embrace."

Mobley-Bowie went on to attend the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

See Divine Peace, page 16

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WORSHIP

► Divine Peace

Continued from p. 15

"I was at seminary at this black institution and there was one man of European descent. His name was Jim Snow and he happened to be the assistant pastor of the MCC of the Blessed Redeemer in Atlanta. We became fast friends because he was out and gay," she said.

Caught between her role as a commissioned home missionary with the Southern Baptist Convention and her authentic self, Mobley-Bowie decided she had to stop lying.

"I decided that I may not be able to tell them I'm gay and be out, but I was not going to lie and tell them I was not gay," she said, noting that she would attend a traditional black church on Sunday mornings and she would kneel on Sunday afternoons in a pew at MCC. This went on for about five years until one day Mobley-Bowie was called in for a meeting. Told she was under suspicion of being a homosexual and asked to resign, she did so without fuss. It was 1981 and Mobley-Bowie went right back to the MCC church and joined, never looking back. She decided she would never again work anyplace where she couldn't be fully out.

"If that meant I'd never work in a church again so be it," she said. Turns out, after 10 years of working a secular job, Mobley-Bowie was invited to be an associate pastor at MCC Resurrection in Houston, Texas in 1990.

She kept her post for 15 years and married her partner, Adrain, in 1998. In 2005, she felt the time had come to leave the church. She moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma, to serve as interim pastor of an MCC church there. A couple years later, she moved to Richmond, Virginia to take on the same assignment.

In 2016, Mobley-Bowie and her wife moved to Saginaw, Michigan with retirement in mind. But Mobley-Bowie got involved with MCC Detroit and was offered the opportunity to become interim pastor at Divine Peace MCC in Waterford Township beginning Sept. 3. She signed an open-ended contract that has an initial period of one year.

"We'll see how long they need me and how long I can be of service, but I'm hoping it will be more than one year," she said, adding, "It is an awesome opportunity and it's an awesome task."

Divine Peace MCC is located at 1400 Scott Lake Rd. in Waterford Township. Call 248-332-1186 or visit www.dpmcc.net for more information.

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Arrive early for a dance lesson and stay for the open dance floor, a live music set, food and drink specials!

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Saturday, September 23
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Jamison Ross
Friday, October 20 at 10 PM
Grammy-nominated artist Jamison Ross takes listeners on a musical journey that unifies his drumming abilities and vocal gifting.

Green Carnations, Mary?

Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Somewhere pressed in my book of tattered memories is a green carnation, still remarkably fresh with the passage of so much time. It's there with a wrist corsage I hadn't the courage to wear to my senior high prom and some daisy chains I linked together in celebration at my graduation party.

The green carnation dates to 1991, when the Detroit Area Gay/Lesbian Council, an activist confabulation of over a dozen, then LG andB organizations, held a fundraiser at Wayne State University's Hilberry Theater.

(DAG/LC vanished into the sunset, as did fledgling gay organizations: Association of Suburban People, Michigan Organization for Human Rights, and Motor City Business Forum. DAG/LC's legacy is Motor City Pride.)

The Hilberry Theater gala was Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest." WSU actor Ray Schultz, now tenured theater professor at University of Minnesota, was Earnest.

About 50 of us secret thespians wore green carnations as badges of honor that memorable evening. The boutonniere was Oscar's brainstorm, or so he led the "earnests" of his day to believe. (In the 1920s, the gay signaling device was a red tie. Color-coded hanky-panky handkerchiefs arrived late 1960s.)

Oscar borrowed the carnation idea from Parisian gais, and at the 1891 first night opening of his play,"Lady Windermere's Fan" got London queens to give new meaning to the wearin' o' th' green. The effect was electric, as was Wilde's curtain call with a gold-tipped cigarette in hand. A quite shocking breach of manners.

Some time ago I swore I'd never read another Wilde bio (ditto Radclyffe Hall), having read my fill of the Irish genius, playwright, poet, esthete, raconteur, iconoclast, fashion maven and 19th century martyr for gay rights.

However – cluttered closet snoop that I am – I couldn't resist Neil McKenna's "The Secret Life of Oscar Wilde: An Intimate Biography" (Basic Books). Based on new Victorian documents, diaries, letters, it's a strip-tease tragedy glimpsed from a gloryhole perspective.

Two tamer items: 1) The maiden name of "Bosie" Lord Alfred Douglas's mother is Montgomery; and 2) Francis, Lord Drumlanrig, Bosie's older brother, killed himself because he feared exposure of his same-sex love affair with Prime Minister Lord Rosebery. Rule Fruitannia!

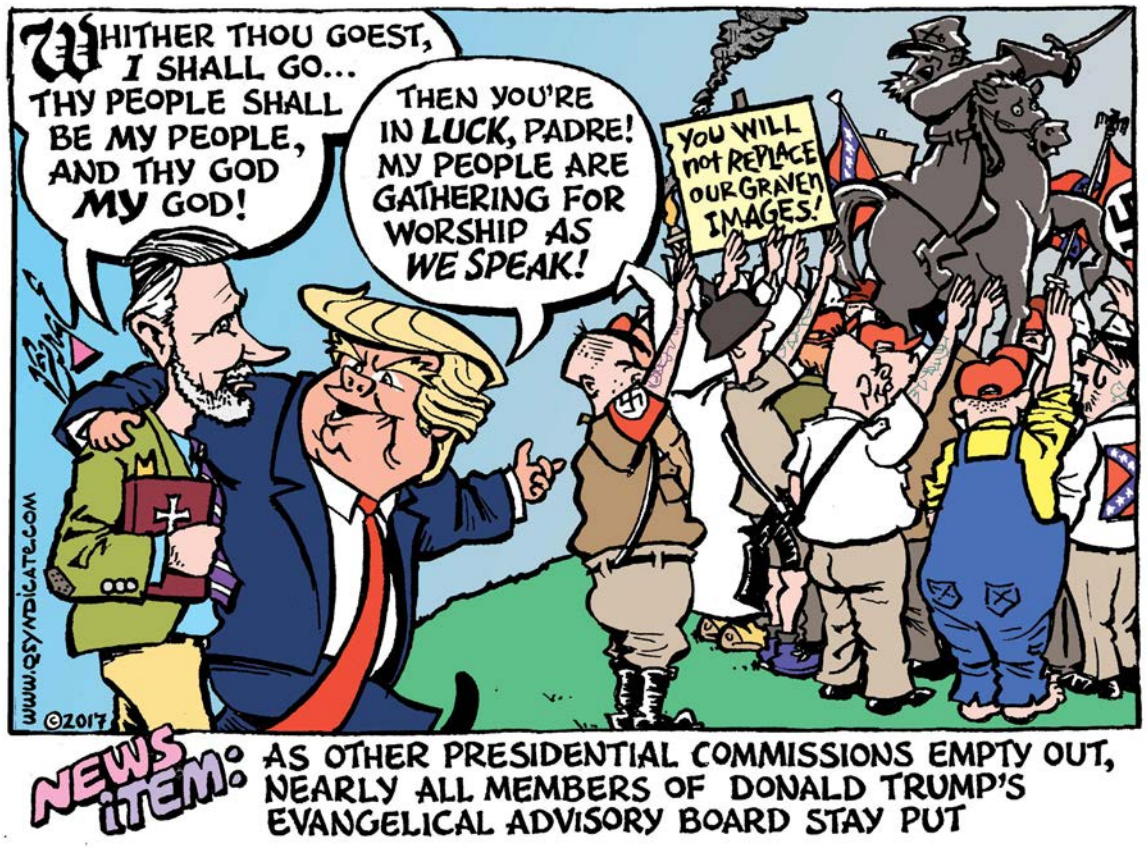
According to McKenna, Oscar and Bosie burned their patchouli-scented candles at both ends. More than once singeing hotel bed linen. Together they indulged in a rarely interrupted orgy of boner escapades with clerks, waiters, bellhops, messengers, adoring gay groupies, stage door Johnnies, rent boys. Wilde called the latter act of noblesse oblige "feasting with panthers."

Oscar & Bosie were not exactly discrete in public as to whom they rubbed their velveteen kickers with; and among close friends they boasted of joint weekly conquests, providing salacious details of activity, size, position, male brothel decor, hospitality, tea service (or, lack thereof).

One of Bosie's down-the-Nile travel companions, Robert Hichens, a journalist, took copious shorthand notes while sailing and counting pyramids, turning queersay into a roman a clef, entitled – call FTD – "The Green Carnation," published anonymously in 1894, one year before Wilde's three notorious trials.

Thanks to blabbermouth Bosie's trash talk, Hichen's novel sold like holiday hot-cross buns. Though not mentioning O&B by name, it was

See next page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Mombian

In the Wake of Charlottesville

BY DANA RUDOLPH

As a child, there were two things I thought were unfathomable and absolutely morally wrong: nuclear war and Nazis. To see both in the news again as real threats to our country sickens and appalls me. But while nuclear war felt like a broad threat against all humanity, Nazism felt more personal. It was hate largely directed against a group – Jews – of which I was part. (It was only later in life that I added "queer" to that list as well.)

My family was not particularly observant, but I was very aware of our cultural heritage and our difference from most families in the predominantly Christian town where we lived. My brother and I ate plenty of hamburgers and fish sticks like our peers, but we were two of the very few kids in town who had ever tasted gefilte fish or latkes. Nazis, although they did not harm me or my family directly, harmed people who were like me. I could immediately relate to that and understand why such hate was wrong.

I was lucky enough, however, not to face overt anti-Semitism while growing up – just an underlying systemic favoritism towards Christian holidays and representation in my schools. It was hurtful in its own way, but did not put life and limb at risk. But I have also walked through this world as a White person and as someone not immediately read as Jewish. (My red hair makes most people guess Irish.)

I could, if I choose to, ignore the existence of racism and anti-Semitism and probably get on fine for most of my days – that's a privilege I carry. Of course, ignoring such things because they do not harm me would be the height of selfishness. And they do harm me, for they harm any society in which they fester.

Aside from direct harm to the people they target, which is bad enough, they separate rather than unite us, strain friendships and potential friendships, and limit our ability to work with, learn from, and love others. Perhaps the neo-Nazis and White Supremacists have done us a warped sort of favor, though. The neo-Nazis champion a broad-based hate that hits people of color, immigrants, Jews, LGBTQ people, and many more. Maybe this resurgent threat across multiple identity groups will finally spur us into a united

action towards a more just society.

That takes leadership, however, and if the Trump administration has demonstrated anything in the

See next page

► Mombian

Continued from p. 18

aftermath of Charlottesville, it is that it is sorely lacking in that department. The burden then, is on each of us to take leadership in whatever way we can, whether that means attending rallies, speaking up when we hear biased remarks, donating diverse toys and books to our children's schools, or making sure our own children have them on their shelves. We can also keep pressure on our other elected officials and business leaders to make sure they know that we will not tolerate support for those who espouse racist or other hateful ideas or actions.

And those of us who have privilege of any kind, by virtue of being white, male, Christian, straight, cisgender, able-bodied, or anything else should think about how we can use that privilege to be an ally to others in times like these. As a queer Jew, I am angered and frightened by what has transpired in Charlottesville and beyond. I hope there are allies out there who will support me and others who share my identities. As a White person, however, I know that the danger is worse right now for people of color, regardless of religion or LGBTQ status, and I hope I can be an ally in turn.

My identity as a Jew gave me an initial awareness that some people are hated, oppressed, and targeted by violence simply for being who they are. My identity as a lesbian added another layer to that understanding. I cannot in good conscience, then, turn away from any other group that is similarly targeted.

Those of us who are white should start, perhaps, by reaching out to friends and neighbors of color to ask if there is anything we can do to support them personally. On a wider scale, we can listen to what people of color are saying about the events of the past few weeks and the impact of both systemic and overt bias in their lives, seeking out readings or videos from publications like The Root or Colorlines (without presuming that those publications represent the full spectrum of views and opinions of people of color). We can weave that information into what we know of privilege and oppression from our own identities, and use that to guide our actions. And we can help our children understand, in age-appropriate ways, the implications of race in our society—Google "how to talk with your kids about race" for a slew of tips from a variety of sources.

Those of us who have privilege of any kind, by virtue of being white, male, Christian, straight, cisgender, able-bodied, or anything else should think about how we can use that privilege to be an ally to others in times like these. As a queer Jew, I am angered and frightened by what has transpired in Charlottesville and beyond. I hope there are allies out there who will support me and others who share my identities. As a white person, however, I know that the danger is worse right now for people of color, regardless of religion or LGBTQ status, and I hope I can be an ally in turn.

When I first learned about the Holocaust as a child, the other thing that shocked me, aside from the pure horror of the genocide, was that the United States took so long to take action, even after reports of the atrocities began coming out of Europe. Let us not make that mistake again as the same underlying hate gathers renewed strength on our very shores.

In the end, though, the so-called "Greatest Generation" of Americans fought the Nazis during World War II and won. We must now unequivocally do the same against the neo-Nazis and their White supremacist ilk, or we will have no cause to speak of our country being great ever again.

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a GLAAD Media Award-winning blog and resource directory for LGBTQ parents.

► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 18

clear to titillated readers just who did what, with which, to grammatically correctwhom. "The Green Carnation" ran through four sizzling editions.

It "ruined Oscar's character with the general public" and painted a lurid, and fascinating, picture of London's lavender set.

Wilde wrote to the Pall Mall Gazette: "I invented that magnificent flower. But ... with the middle-class and mediocre book that usurps its strangely beautiful name, I have nothing whatsoever to do. The flower is a work of art. The book is not." (Mary, Mary, quite contrary.)

Connect with Charles Alexander at Charles@pridesource.com.

Creep of the Week

Sam Clovis

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

If you're a bigoted jerk in America you can trust that the Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect sees you and isn't afraid to call you out by name. On Aug, 21, @AnneFrankCenter Tweeted, "To hell - and he can't get there fast enough - with Sam Clovis, @POTUS nominee at USDA who equates LGBT with pedophilia. Senate, vote no!"

In case you don't know who Clovis is – and why should you? When's the last time you knew U.S. Department of Agriculture nominees by name? – know this: he's in no way qualified to work in any capacity as a scientist.

Yet he's been tapped to be the undersecretary of agriculture for research, education and economics. He's taught economics before and has a degree in public policy, but that's not the same as being someone who understands and believes in science.

Trump was supposed to pick from a pool of "distinguished scientists with specialized training or significant experience in agricultural research, education, and economics." Instead, he picked Clovis, a conservative radio host who supported Trump during the 2016 campaign.

Clovis doesn't believe in climate change. "I have enough of a science background to know when I'm being boofed," he told Iowa Public Radio about the overwhelming scientific evidence that climate change is real.

Thankfully the USDA has nothing to do with agriculture, and agriculture has nothing to do with climate. Because it'd be a bummer if growing crops was tied to, like, weather and stuff.

There's another sciencey issue that Clovis also struggles with: the homo.

According to CNN, between 2012 and 2014 (a.k.a. very recent history), Clovis expressed some really gross views on homosexuality.

Writing for The Iowa Republican (which touts itself as "News for Republicans, by Republicans") in 2013, Clovis argued that homos didn't deserve protection under the 14th amendment unless homosexuality was genetic which, Clovis argued, it isn't. Therefore, those arguing for equal rights were actually asking for special protections for the "homosexual acts" they, of course, chose to do.

Reducing LGBTQ people solely to sex acts and comparing them to pedophiles is, of course, a favorite way to dehumanize.

"Someone who engages in LGBT behavior -- I don't know what the science is on this, I think it's still out -- but as far as we know, LGBT behavior is a choice they make, Clovis said later during a campaign stop for a campaign he ultimately lost (but, you know, Trump doesn't like losers). "So we're being asked to provide Constitutional protections for behavior, a choice in behavior as opposed to a primary characteristic."

Never mind the fact that a "primary characteristic," like race for example, is hardly as clearly defined as Clovis seems to believe.(A recent rash of stories about white supremacists finding out via DNA testing that they aren't genealogically "pure" comes to mind. "Their reactions range from challenging the basic math behind the tests to accusing Jewish conspirators of sabotage," PBS reported.) I, for one, don't feel a need to provide genetic proof that I deserve civil rights.

Anyway, Clovis argued that protecting lesbians and gays (or, as I guess he'd put it, lesbian and gay behavior choosers) would open the door to, well, anything.

"If we protect LGBT behavior, what other behaviors are we going to protect?" he asked. "Are we going to protect pedophilia?"

Reducing LGBTQ people solely to sex acts and comparing them to pedophiles is, of course, a favorite way to dehumanize. And once a group is seen as less than human vilifying them and denying them rights is much easier.

Clovis continues down his slippery slope, arguing that LGBT rights are basically a gateway drug: "What's the logical extension of this? It can't be that we're going to protect LGBT and then we'll pull up the ladder."

Never mind the fact that the sky hasn't fallen since marriage equality became the law of the land. Remember we were warned that people would be marrying goats and toasters? Hasn't happened.

Clovis goes on to say, "We're not thinking the consequences of these decisions through," which is actually the perfect motto for the Trump administration. So maybe he does belong there, keeping in mind, however, that Trump and his entire administration doesn't belong in power.

Where There's a Rap, There's a Way

Photo: Fox Searchlight

'Patti Cake$' Breakout Star Danielle Macdonald on Working for Ryan Murphy, Her Gay Role Struggle and Drag Queens

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Danielle Macdonald has something to slay. Of course, there's her coming-of-age film "Patti Cake$," which the 26-year-old Aussie actress crushes with credible virtuosity during her entire scenery-chewing run as an aspiring rapper, Killa P, working hard to beat the odds. The indie premiered to critical acclaim at Sundance and subsequently propelled the newcomer to Hollywood's ones-to-watch list. But Macdonald, who earned minor screen cred for starring in Ryan Murphy property, such as "Glee" and "American Horror Story," is busting out in a big, gay way.

Meet Macdonald here, and check out what she had to say about the message she hopes her new film conveys to the LGBT community and the drag queens who play a major role in her upcoming film with Jennifer Aniston, "Dumplin'."

You're credited as "Girl No. 1" on an episode of "Glee." What was your experience being on that show?

It was my first-ever TV credit. It got me my SAG card! So, I'm super grateful for it. I'd done one short film before that, but aside from that, it was my first big set experience. It was a lot of fun, honestly. Everyone was really great and super welcoming.

Who's everyone? Did you get to meet Ryan Murphy?

I did not get to meet Ryan Murphy, which is funny because I've done "Glee" and "American Horror Story" and I've not met him yet. I never do his episodes, apparently! (Laughs)

But the producers and the writers and whole crew were really great, but then I was also working with Dianna Agron, Cory Monteith and Ashley Fink. It was a really cool experience, actually. I had so much fun that day. It was in the episode "Born This Way." I loved that episode. It was the only hour-and-a-half-long episode they ever did, and it was about loving yourself.

Similarly, "Patti Cake$" is about embracing yourself. Does that message of authenticity resonate with you?

Definitely. I think you just have to own who you are and love who you are because, I mean, it's your life. I think that a lot of people can relate to Patti who you wouldn't necessarily think would. When I first read the script, I was like, "Oh my god, she is so different from me; this is gonna be so hard." It was because I had to learn a lot of things to be able to become her, but after I looked deeper, I kind of stopped myself and said, "Let's go through it again," and I really do relate to her in a lot of ways. It's a coming-of-age story, and about figuring out who you are, and that can be really hard for a lot of people.

Was it hard for you?

Yes and no. I think I'm quite a stubborn person, so that helps (laughs). I've always owned who I am and been fairly comfortable in my own skin, and it's definitely gotten easier with age – that's a shock. As a teenager you can't help but have your insecurities – I mean, everyone has them – but I always had good people around me; that helps so much.

Were some of those people gay people?

It's funny, because growing up, no! I don't think there was anyone who was out in my year in high school, which is astounding to me because there were in other years, just not in my year. That was really kind of crazy. I

know that that's not the case anymore. I know that's changed and some of the people I was friends with definitely have come out since.

Why do you think you didn't have many gay friends? Australia seems progressive, aside from the fact that they're still not on board with marriage equality.

Which is actually creepy because by far the majority of the population want it, which is the most insane thing. It absolutely blows my mind that it hasn't happened yet. There's been a lot of changes in government since I moved away. I moved away seven years ago and I think we've gone through five prime ministers or something. It's been pretty crazy there, like topsy-turvy with that. And I think that has something to do with it. But it's gotta happen.

It wasn't a thing when I grew up. My parents had gay friends, so that was completely normal to me, always. The moment I moved to L.A., oh yeah, definitely. I was like, "Yeah, these are my people." My best friends are gay, my managers are. They're like family. I feel very at home and comfortable with them.

How often do gay men ask you if you personally know and have had tea with fellow Aussie Kylie Minogue?

I mean, the first time I met my manager – he didn't ask me if I knew her, but he was like, "I love Kylie Minogue," and I was like, "Of course you do. Kylie is awesome." I haven't actually been asked if I personally know her. I definitely do not personally know her; that would make me far too cool.

What was the most challenging part of inhabiting Patti?

I mean, when I first read her I didn't understand the world she comes from because I grew up in a very different place. It was a different accent, a different culture. She was interested in different things than me, different relationships with her family, friends; just everything about her that she experienced was different. But then, I also was like, "OK, wait a minute; she's a girl that is trying to fit into an industry that she doesn't fit into." Naturally, I can relate to that. I can relate to her passion and the drive and the love that she has for her friends and family. Those were all things I could relate to. But then I had to learn to walk differently and talk differently and rap and experience New Jersey – get that vibe – so that it felt second nature.

Did you have any female rappers in mind while playing her?

I definitely listened to a bunch. When I was going through the process of really trying to learn how to rap, I listened to so many people. I practiced everyone. Some of the female artists were Nicki Minaj, Missy Elliott and Leikeli47, and also a lot of up-and-coming female rappers that I found on YouTube. Sometimes friends would send me links, sometimes I would just Google "rap battles between female rappers" and it was really cool to watch those. But I tried a lot of different songs by a lot of different artists – both male and female – to see the kind of badass boss attitude that they have. I was like, "OK, yeah, they have this confidence that I don't think I have." When I was getting up on stage, I was like, I don't know if I have the confidence to do this because also you have to be confident in a skill that you don't know, which is really intimidating, but it was also very freeing.

In the film, Patti is empowered through daydreams she has of O-Z, her rap idol. What was your musical escapism growing up?

As a teenager, it was a lot of emo and punk rock. I listened to a lot of Blink 182, Green Day, Good Charlotte and Sum 41. The lyrics are very depressing, but it's what you relate to as a teenager. As a teenager, you're like, "They get me!"

Have you played a gay role yet?

I've auditioned for a bunch! I don't think I have, though, which is kind of crazy. I don't know why I never get them! (Laughs)

What about those roles spoke to you?

I mean, they're just human beings with stories. I like seeing people with real stories, that is really what appeals to me. That's what appealed to me about "Patti Cake$" as well. I don't feel like we see this story very often. And that's generally how I feel. I don't wanna see something that we always see – I wanna see a story about a real person and their real struggles.

You'll be working with director Anne Fletcher and Jennifer Aniston on "Dumplin'," another female-focused film. What does it mean to you to be a part of female-driven films?

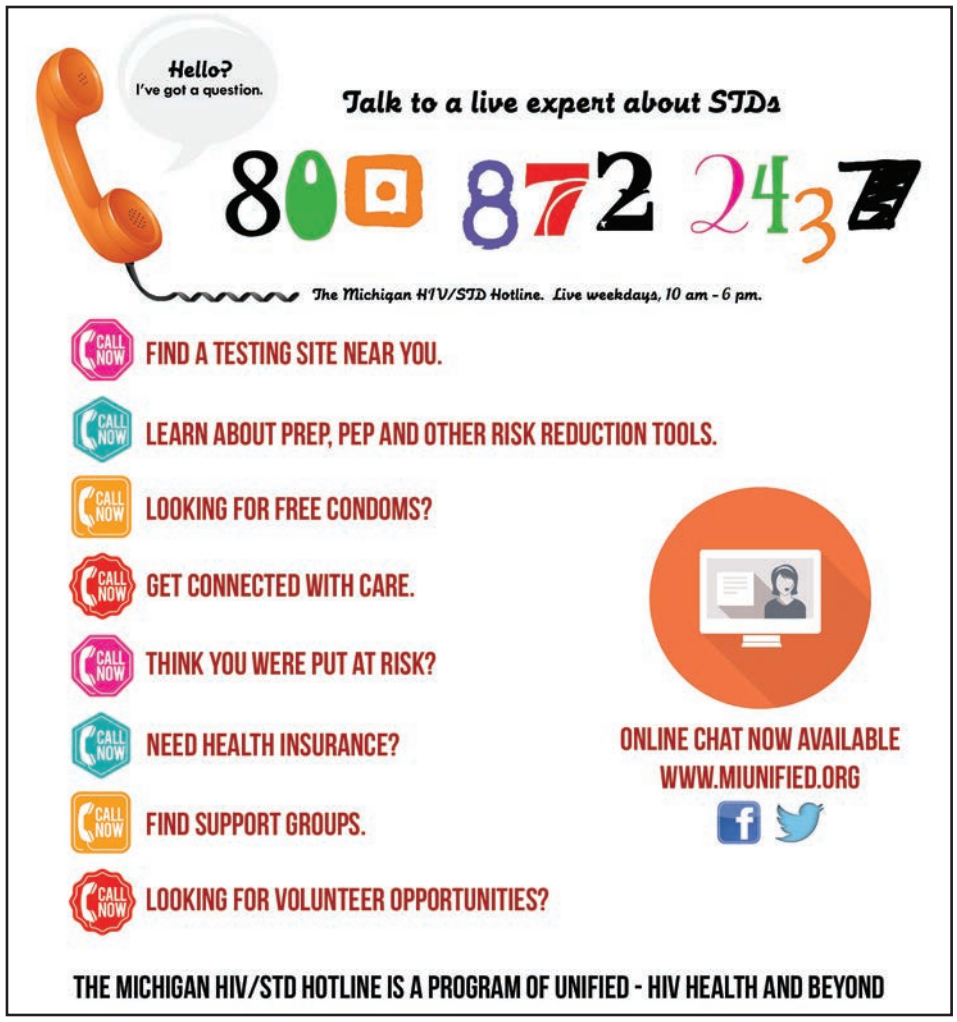
I'm so excited about that. I've been fortunate to work with a lot of female filmmakers and really just a lot of strong women, which is amazing. And I'm really excited about "Dumplin'" as well because these characters learn how to be strong through drag queens. It's based on a book and they go to a bar and learn empowerment from these drag queens and how to get through this beauty pageant.

How are you feeling about going to makeshift drag bars when it comes time to shoot?

I'm so excited about that. I was like, "Yes! This is everything I want." I've read the book and I relate to this so much. I feel like this is gonna be almost cathartic to me in a way because it's something I would've really loved to see as a teenager growing up. It speaks to teenage me.

What do you hope LGBT people take away from "Patti Cake$"?

I hope that they take away self-empowerment. People will try to put you in a box, but do your own thing and people will love you for it.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Kesha's Open Letter to the LGBTQ Community: 'My Album 'Rainbow' Was Made For You'

My new album is called "Rainbow" and it's not a coincidence that rainbows are also a symbol of LGBTQ pride. Color for the past couple of years has been symbolic of hope for me. For me, rainbows are a sign of freedom to be yourself and celebrate who you are no matter what anyone else thinks.

I have always felt like an outsider and have felt that I need to justify who I am and why I am how I am, and I feel like, unfortunately, that is a pretty common occurrence for people within the LGBTQ community as well. The LGBTQ community has always been an important part of my life and has always influenced my art, and I feel like it's as evident as ever on this album.

With the song "Hymn" in particular, I wrote many of those lyrics as I was recalling times I had gone into the streets to march for equality. Lines like, "Go and read about us in the news.... After all we've been through, no we won't stand and salute.... If we die before we wake, who we are is no mistake, this is just the way we are made," were written specifically about the idea of fighting for equality.

I personally will never stop fighting for equality for all humans and specifically for the LGBTQ community because I know what it feels like to be bullied for just being yourself, and I know that so many in the LGBTQ community have it so much worse than I could ever imagine. That's why I have rainbows painted all over my body and my house and everything else, because rainbows inspire so much joy and hope and light and happiness; and I hope the LGBTQ community identifies with my album "Rainbow," because it was made for you.

–Kesha

PERFORMING

Kesha

'Rainbow Tour' • 7 p.m. Oct. 15
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>> www.keshaofficial.com

Hear Me Out Kesha, Lana Del Rey

Kesha, 'Rainbow'

Don't be surprised if Kesha needed "Rainbow," her first album since 2012's "Warrior," as much as the queer kids questioning their place in this mad, queer-resistant world do. Her comeback album's soaring first single, "Praying," finds light at the end of the long, turbulent tunnel the resilient pop star occupied for too long before reaching a point – beyond her much-publicized legal battles with producer Dr. Luke, beyond her booze-heavy factory pop – where she could finally say, "The best is yet to come." As the thrashing ballad whips into something even more transcendent than that Mariah-high whistle note she hits during the track, unleashing the second coming of Kesha, that's no exaggeration – Kesha, of "Tik Tok" and general party-girl fame, has never been this raw, or as candidly captivating. Marked by hard-won perspective and a fresh outlook on life (and death, per the charmingly weird send-off "Spaceship"), Kesha's artistic rebirth manages to offer an openhearted hug to anyone who, like her, has ever felt different. "Hymn," an individuality-championing chant, and the understated title track, with its reference to our iconic LGBT symbol, are both songs I wish I could have leaned on as a young, struggling gay teen. "Come and paint the world with me tonight," she summons, over a Ben Folds-produced track that bursts into a warm orchestral swoop. For once, maybe, Kesha is showing her true colors on "Rainbow," and that realness extends into the rock- and roots-inspired music. Sometimes she fashions a simple coffeehouse-guitar approach (set opener "Bastards" and "Godzilla," a zany little acceptance-centric ditty using the infamous monster as a metaphor for her misunderstood boyfriend), and on "Hunt You Down," she tips her hat to Johnny Cash's rockabilly sound, adding her own killer feminist twist. She sticks it to the man again on "Woman," a scorching kiss-off featuring The Dap-Kings Horns and enough girl power to put this current "only white men matter" administration into a cold sweat. Elsewhere, Eagles of Death Metal spice up two rollicking tracks, including the "Shake It Off"-esque "Let 'em Talk," while the Rainbow Queen herself, Dolly Parton, cameos because get this: Kesha's mom, country-music scribe Pebe Sebert, wrote "Old Flames (Can't Hold a Candle to You)," which Dolly covered in 1980. In many ways, having grown up on the Nashville greats, this is Kesha returning to her homegrown, pre-pop-star roots. Because sometimes you have to look behind in order to move forward, she admits, "I've been through hell and back," on "Learn to Let Go," pointing to the "boogeyman under my bed." But Kesha has returned to the driver's seat, making the best music of her career, and we're all in for the empowering, starry-eyed spaceship ride. *Grade: A-*

Lana Del Rey, 'Lust for Life'

There's a world on fire and not even a contact buzz from Lana Del Rey's pass-the-blunt Never, Never Land will help us pretend we're OK. Momentary respite, though, lingers in every mindful corner of "Lust for Life," where indie-pop's wooziest wet dream finds herself in a contradictory place, one the album cover takes into consideration. On it, Del Rey is not solemn, not even seductive. She's got a damn smile on her Barbie face and flowers in her hair – irony at its best. As gunshots pop throughout her coo-y ode to unity, "God Bless America – and All the Beautiful Women," she addresses Trumpland's chauvinism with a wink, a wicked sense of humor and the feeling that late-night binging "The Handmaid's Tale" really got to her. "Is it the end of America?" she wonders, putting aside her own summertime sadness for something bigger than herself: the present-day paranoia and uncertainty of... living. Retro and lullaby-like, its sound mostly mirrors Del Rey's past work on 2014's "Ultraviolence" and its follow-up from a year later, "Honeymoon." But, working against type, she's hopeful. "Beautiful People Beautiful Problems" aptly enlists Stevie Nicks, the two advising that "we gotta try," while her moving, impossible-not-to-cry-during piano solo, "Change," looks ahead with aberrant optimism. She empathically prays for "the third time" for the youth, has an entire song called "When the World Was at War We Kept Dancing," and, during "13 Beaches," finally finds repose. Del Rey's cinematic "Lust for Life" doesn't need a visual component – we are on that beach, we are dancing, and we are living and we are lusting for her every reassuring word. *Grade: B*

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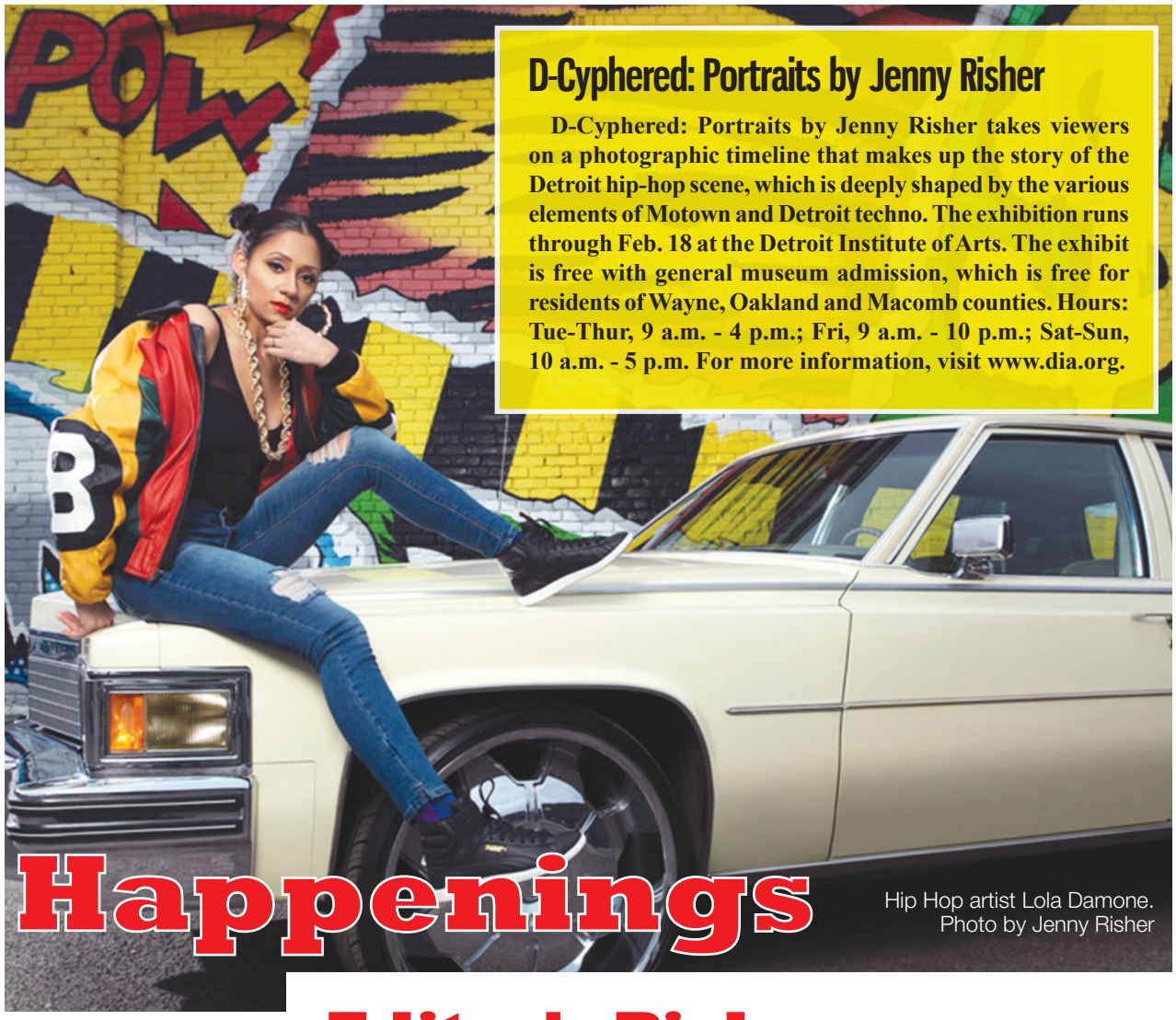

Happenings

Hip Hop artist Lola Damone. Photo by Jenny Risher

D-Cyphered: Portraits by Jenny Risher

D-Cyphered: Portraits by Jenny Risher takes viewers on a photographic timeline that makes up the story of the Detroit hip-hop scene, which is deeply shaped by the various elements of Motown and Detroit techno. The exhibition runs through Feb. 18 at the Detroit Institute of Arts. The exhibit is free with general museum admission, which is free for residents of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. Hours: Tue-Thur, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Fri, 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.; Sat-Sun, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.dia.org.

Editor's Pick

Talk Tuesday

Interested in learning how to get involved in electing pro-equality law makers? Want to learn more about how to help pass pro-equality policies at the state and local levels? Then attend a free event, Talk Tuesday, from 6-9 p.m. on Sept. 5 hosted by Curtis Lipscomb at LGBT Detroit with special guest Erin Knott, field manager with Equality Michigan. The event will be held at the #SafeBraveSpace, 20025 Greenfield Rd. in Detroit. For more information, visit www.facebook.

OUTINGS

Thursday, Aug. 24

Gender Non-Conformists 7 p.m. A social and support group for genderqueer, genderfabulous, transgender, gender-exploring folks and all those who transgress gender binaries. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

LGBTQ Book and Film Club 7 p.m. August book: Mysterious Skin by Scott Helm and August movie: Mysterious Skin Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

Men's Social Group 7 p.m. Grand Rapids Pride Center, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids.** www.grpride.org

Support group for parents and transgender youth 7 p.m. Youth meet in the "youth lounge." Parents meet in room 100. Second and fourth Thursday of each month. Stand with Trans, 30450 Farmington Road, **Farmington Hills.** 248-739-9254. roz@standwithtrans.org www.standwithtrans.org

Red Umbrella Support Group 7:30 p.m. For individuals involved in the erotic labor industry. Sex Workers Outreach Project Michigan, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

Friday, Aug. 25

Turn Up Fridays 9 p.m. $5 for 18+ until 11 p.m., $10 after. No cover for 21+ until 11 p.m., $5 after. Music by Klees. Spiral, 1247 Center St., **Lansing.** www.spiraldancebar.com

Saturday, Aug. 26

Health Care Town Hall 10 a.m. Michigan citizens will have the opportunity to have their questions answered and learn how to protect their health care. Indivisible Michigan and Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence (D-Southfield), 24350 Southfield Rd., **Southfield.** www.michigandems.com

Group Facilitator Training 1:30 p.m. Any individual wishing to facilitate a support or discussion group must begin with volunteer orientation and training prior to attending facilitator training. Email Heather Aymer for more information. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. haymer@goaffirmations.org www.goaffirmations.org

Smeared Lipstick 3 p.m. A discussion group for self identified feminine lesbian women to identify issues specific to them. The group also does a monthly community service project to increase their visibility in every community. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

LezRead 4 p.m. Email Kerene Moore to join Ann Arbor's premier book club for lesbians. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor.** kerenem@jimtoycenter.org www.jimtoycenter.org/

Men's Discussion Group 6 p.m. Topic: Pet peeves Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. www.

goaffirmations.org

Own Your Gender 7 p.m. For transgender, non-binary and gender and gender questioning people Grand Rapids Pride Center, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids.** www.grpride.org

Kiki Saturdays 9 p.m. 18+, guest entertainers, 10 p.m. drag show Spiral, 1247 Center St., **Lansing.** www.spiraldancebar.com

DJ & Dancing 10 p.m. Aut Bar, 315 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor.** www.autbar.com

Sunday, Aug. 27

Hug Detroit Day Block Party 12 p.m. Theme: "We Love Detroit." A day of peace, fun and hugs all day long. Iron Street Neighborhood Association, 227 Iron St., **Detroit.** 2484451277. nicolefreemanmanagement@gmail.com www.hugdetroit.net

MCC Detroit's Annual BBQ Picnic 12 p.m. Donation of $8 for adults, $4 for children ages 6-11, free for children 5 and under. Call Laurie with questions. MCC Detroit, 2441 Pinecrest Ave., **Ferndale.** 586-202-6682. mccdetroit@gmail.com www.mccdetroit.org

Gay Subtext Book Club 2 p.m. Email for more information. Gay Subtext Book Club, 610 Woodmere Ave., **Traverse City.** gaysubtext@gmail.com www.tcpolestar.org/

Transcend 4 p.m. For transgender and gender non-conforming individuals OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo.** 2693494234. www.outfrontkzoo.org

Monday, Aug. 28

Department of Victim Services Open Office Hours 11 a.m. Contact Genny Maze, lead advocate, or Jeynce Poindexter, transgender advocate at jpoindexter@equalitymi.org, to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins welcome. Equality Michigan, 121 S. Garfield Ave. Suite A, **Traverse City.** 866-962-1147. gmaze@equalitymi.org www.tcpolestar.org/

T-Time 6 p.m. Social gathering every fourth Monday of the month where trans folks can meet in a safe space. FtM A2 Ypsi, 307 N. River St., **Ypsilanti.** www.facebook.com/ftma2ypsi/

FtM Detroit Support Group 7 p.m. Support is limited to transmasculine, AFAB people who no longer identify as female, or are questioning, and their guests. FtM Detroit, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. ftmdetroit@gmail.com

Whole Lives, Healthy Lives Adult Support Group 7 p.m. This one-of-a-kind program in Berrien County helps attendees support each other in healthy ways through active listening and caring feedback. OutCenter, 132 Water St., **Benton Harbor.** 269-925-8330. www.Outcenter.org

Tuesday, Aug. 29

Sexual Assault Survivors Groups 4 p.m. Youth group, ages 13-17, meets at 4 p.m. Adult group, ages 18 and over, meets at 5:15 p.m. OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo.** www.outfrontkzoo.org

Wednesday, Aug. 30

The Pastor is In 3:30 p.m. Pastor Dani Veenstra, local United Church of Christ faith leader and ally to the LGBTQ community hosts this free service every Wednesday. OutCenter, 132 Water St., **Benton Harbor.** 269-925-8330. thepastorisin@outcenter.org www.outcenter.org

Thursday, Aug. 31

45+ Club 12 p.m. Activity and community group for persons age 45 and up. Play games and socialize in the Affirmations' Game Room. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. haymer@goaffirmations.org www.goaffirmations.org

Connections Youth Group 6 p.m. For youth ages 13-18 OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo.** 2693494234. www.outfrontkzoo.org

LGBTQ Youth Meeting 6 p.m. OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo.** michael@kglrc.org www.outfrontkzoo.org

Trivia with Terry 8 p.m. Aut Bar, 315 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor.** www.autbar.com

Karaoke Night 10 p.m. 18+, free cover 21+ Lipgloss Productions, 1247 Center St., **Lansing.** www.spiraldancebar.com

MUSIC & MORE

Benefits/Social Events

SAGE Metro Detroit "Walk to End Alzheimer's" Registration at 7:30 a.m. Detroit Zoo, 8450 W. 10 Mile Road, Royal Oak. 8:30 a.m. Aug. 26. 248-996-1044. www.sagemetrodetroit.org

Concerts

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "The Music of Prince" Tickets: $20-75. Meadow Brook Music Festival, 3554 Walton Blvd., Rochester Hills. 8 p.m. Aug. 25. 248-377-0100. http://gaybe.am/LL

Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Cube "Mix @The Max Feat. Ben Sollee" . Max M. Fisher Music Center, Music Box, 3711 Woodward Ave, Detroit. 7 p.m. Aug. 30. 3135765111. www.cubedetroit.org

Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Cube "Big Sam's Funky Nation" Tickets: $15. Max M. Fisher Music Center, Music Box, 3711 Woodward Ave, Detroit. 6 p.m. Aug. 27. 3135765111. www.cubedetroit.org

Dance

Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Cube "Salsa Dance Party" Tickets: $15. Max M. Fisher Music Center, Music Box, 3711 Woodward Ave, Detroit. 9 p.m. Aug. 31. 3135765111. www.cubedetroit.org

Film & Video

Aut Bar "Campy Movie Night" . Aut Bar, 315 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. June 28 - Aug. 30. 734-994-3677. www.autbar.com

Other

Aut Bar "Women's Music on the Patio" Featuring Marsha Gayle and Debbie Vogel. Aut Bar, 315 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. June 28 - Aug. 30. 734-994-3677. www.autbar.com

Aut Bar "Live Jazz with the Jesse Kramer Trio on the patio" . Aut Bar, 315 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. June 27 - Aug. 29. 734-994-3677. www.autbar.com

Theater

The Revolutionists Michigan premiere by Lauren Gunderson. Four beautiful, bad-ass women lose their heads in this irreverent, girl-powered comedy set during the French Revolution. Theatre Nova, 410 W. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 25 - Sep. 17. 734-635-8450. www.theatrenova.org

ART 'N' AROUND

Affirmations "Remix Reframe: the Work of Aimee Michele Coldren" Opening reception Aug. 3 at 7 p.m. Pittman-Puckett Gallery, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Aug. 3 - Sep. 30. www.goaffirmations.org

DIA "Art of Rebellion: Black Art of the Civil Rights Movement" Explore powerful artworks by African American artists who formed collectives during the Civil Rights Movement of the '60s and '70s. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. July 23 - Oct. 22. 313-833-7900. www.dia.org

Lawrence Street Gallery "Sherry Adams Foster - Play of Light" Opening Reception is Sept. 8 from 6-9 p.m. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale. Aug. 30 - Sep. 29. 248-544-0394. www.lawrencestreetgallery.com

Lawrence Street Gallery "30th Anniversary Celebration 1987-2017" Opening Reception: Aug. 4, 6-9 p.m. Mid-month Party: Aug. 13, 2-5 p.m. Gallery is offering 30 percent off coupons for any sale over $100 to be used in August. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale. Aug. 2 - Aug. 25. 248-544-0394. www.lawrencestreetgallery.com

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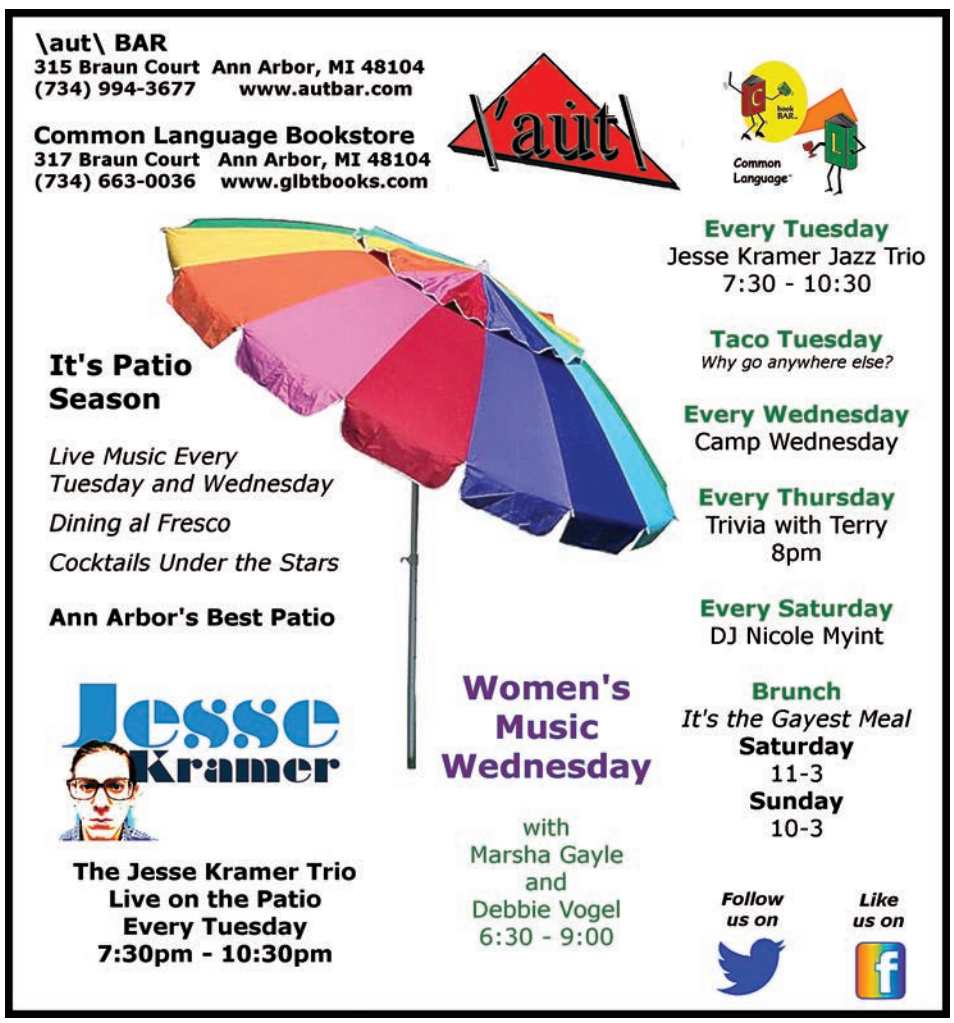

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OU Ranked as Most LGBTQ-Friendly Campus in Michigan

BY SEAN DELANEY

Oakland University has been ranked as the most LGBTQ-friendly campus in the state of Michigan by the Campus Pride Index, which rates both colleges and universities using a five-star system.

"I am honored and inspired to be part of an organization that is so deeply committed to ensuring a diverse, welcoming and collaborative environment," said Oakland University President Ora Pescovitz. "I am also enthusiastic about working with everyone on campus to maintain and grow OU's status as a place where everyone can feel safe and comfortable."

According to Grace Wojcik, coordinator for OU's Gender & Sexuality Center, the university received four-and-a-half stars from Campus Pride this year, an improvement over last year's already impressive rating of four out of five stars.

The ranking is based on a variety of factors, including LGBTQ policy inclusion, academic life, student life, campus safety, housing and residence life, and other relevant practices.

Photo courtesy of Oakland University

"The new Campus Pride rating reaffirms the work of the GSC and its collaborative partnerships with a variety of campus partners," Wojcik said. "It further demonstrates the value of the Gender & Sexuality Center and its impact on the lives of our students."

The university was rated highly in multiple areas, with Campus Pride noting that OU has already implemented several LGBTQ-inclusive policies and programs on campus, including:

- Adoption of a non-discrimination statement inclusive of sexual orientation and gender identity/expression
- Providing insurance coverage to employee's same-sex partner
- Training new faculty/staff on sexual orientation and gender identity issues
- LGBTQ-specific courses and programs
- Gender-inclusive housing for new and returning students
- A procedure for reporting LGBTQ-related bias incidents and hate crimes
- LGBTQ student scholarships
- A trans-inclusive trained counseling staff
- Offering LGBTQ-inclusive training and resources to admission counselors

In addition, the report also highlighted several of the LGBTQ-inclusive social activities and educational events offered at OU, including the upcoming LGBTQIA Welcome Reception, as well as the availability of the Gender & Sexuality Center, which serves as an important resource for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual and ally students, staff and faculty at Oakland University.

"This improvement would not have been possible without the dedication of the larger Oakland University community and I look forward to building upon this success," Wojcik said.

To learn more about the ranking, visit www.campusprideindex.org.

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BAYLIN ARTIST MANAGEMENT

Out Loud Chorus Welcomes New Artistic Director

BY BTL STAFF

Out Loud Chorus, the non-auditioned, LGBTQA community chorus in Washtenaw County, has announced William Scott Walters as the chorus's next Artistic Director.

Walters enjoys a multifaceted career as a conductor, singer, and educator. Recently a student of Jerry Blackstone in the University of Michigan's Master of Music conducting program, Walters has studied privately with Robert Spano, Harry Bicket, and Kenneth Kiesler.

"I'm thrilled to be the new artistic director of OLC, and working with such a talented and dedicated group of singers," says Walters. "We will continue to promote diversity through music."

During his studies, Walters has served as conductor of the Orpheus Singers, assistant conductor of the Residential College Singers, Arts Chorale, and assistant conductor of the University and Chamber Choirs. Engagements include serving as assistant conductor for the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's 2013 performance of Bach's B Minor Mass, and providing music direction for Ann Arbor Opera Guild's 2013 American premiere performance and recording of von Suppe's Light Cavalry. Walters has been a conducting fellow for Sarteano Chamber Workshop in Italy, and Conductors Retreat at Medomak in Maine.

A versatile performer, Walters has appeared as a soloist and section member of the UMS Choral Union and Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus, as well as singing backup for Barry Manilow.

Walters was regularly sought out for vocal lessons and coachings in Atlanta and metro-Atlanta area before returning to Ann Arbor. Walters studied voice performance with Carmen Pelton and Valerie Walters. Before commencing graduate studies, Walters served as director of choral music and taught drama at Pepperell High School in Rome, Georgia.

Originally from Kennesaw, Georgia, Walters earned his B.M. in music education from Kennesaw State University, where he studied conducting with Leslie Blackwell.

The OLC Director Search Committee worked with the board of directors during the five-month-long nationwide search. The board brought in a highly-regarded expert from the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses, Eve Campbell, who regularly consults with GALA choruses throughout North America on director searches. The search committee was lucky to

be presented with an exceptionally strong list of candidates for the position. After a thorough multi-phase interview process and choir audition, the board was unanimous in its selection of Walters as the next artistic director.

The board is confident that Walters will build upon the OLC's reputation of choral excellence, raising the chorus to new levels and inspiring a new sense of engagement that our audience and supporters will no doubt enjoy. Walters is already working closely with the Music Selection Committee in planning the 2017-2018 season. Rehearsals begin in September for the January 2018 concerts.

For more information, call 734-265-0740, email at outloudchorus@gmail.com or visit www.olconline.org.

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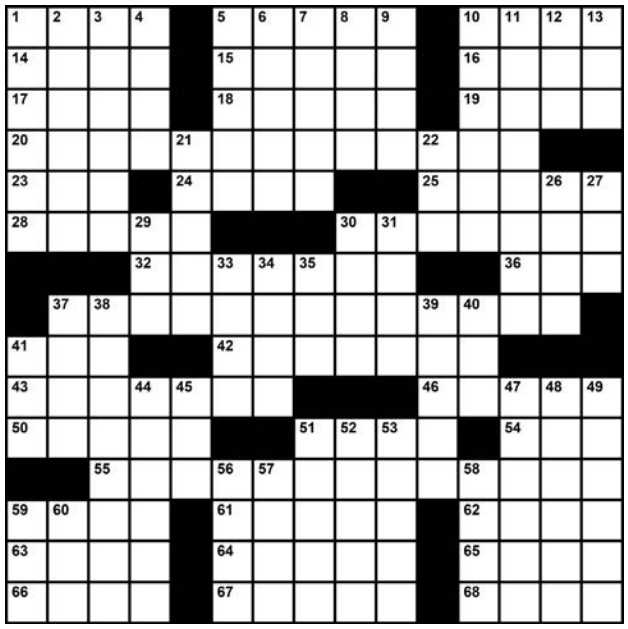
Q Puzzle



Talk Show Moments

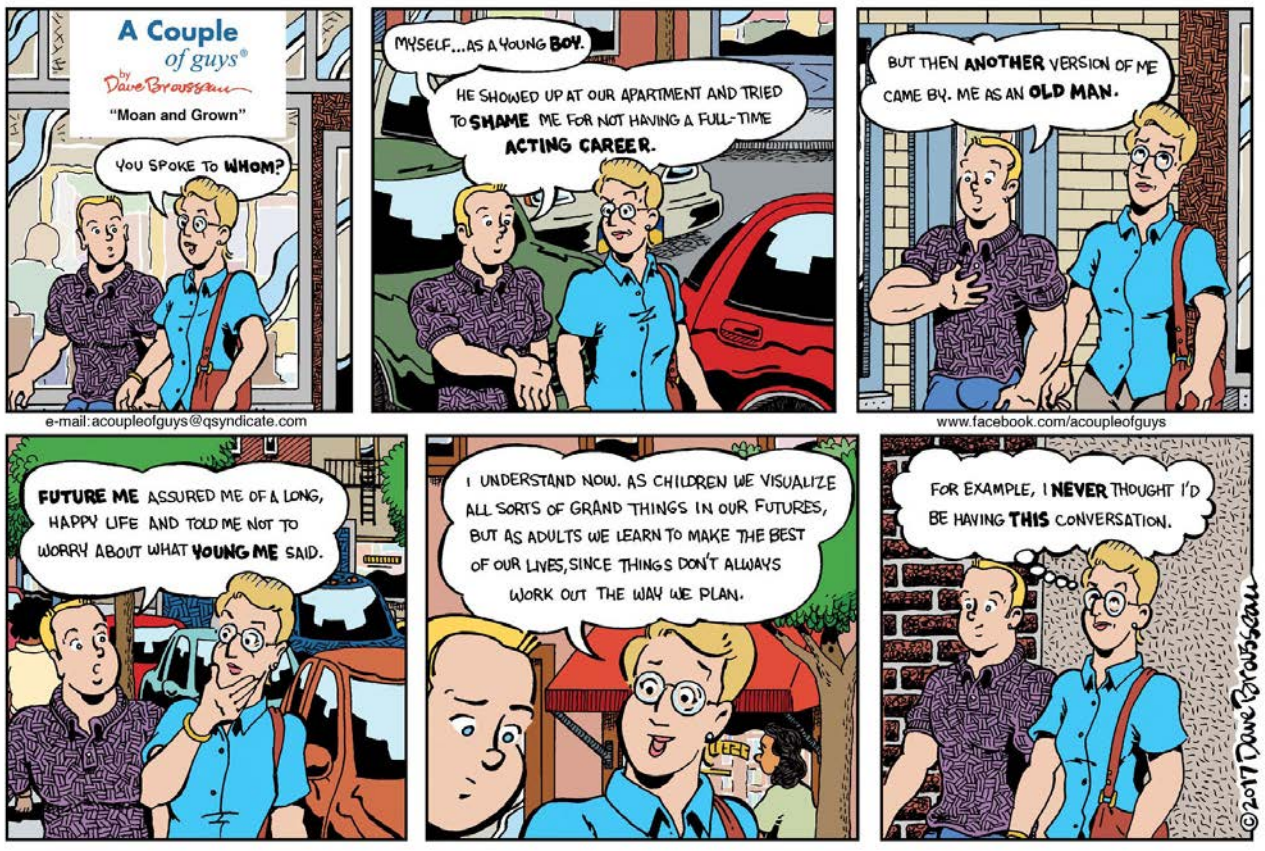
Across

1 "Viva, Las Vegas" middle name
5 Pantywaist
10 Loose woman, in the land of Auden
14 She played Glinda in "The Wiz"
15 It arouses two body openings
16 Give some relief
17 Tops cakes
18 Copier refill
19 Tin Woodman's concern
20 On "The Ellen Show," DeGeneres accused her of being "not on board with" gay marriage
23 Not in the pink
24 Bear that roams the night
25 All thumbs
28 Spear of Minnesota
30 Fruits for condom demos
32 Femmes ___
36 Beret or beanie
37 In 2010 he hosted a "Big Gay Show"
41 Ref for Woolf
42 Cindy Brady braid
43 They won't eat your meat
46 Singer Shepard on "Ally McBeal"
50 Like unhappy lovers, maybe
51 How quickly one comes
54 One E of EEC (abbr.)
55 On her show, she joked with Ellen "I could be Lebanese myself"
59 Western wolf
61 Brian of figure skating
62 "Spamalot" writer Eric
63 Que. or Ont.
64 Brandish, as a sword
65 One side of Ed Wood
66 "I'm too ___ for my shirt"
67 Warhol's range?
68 Gay cable network

Down

1 Cher's portrayer in "Clueless"
2 Auto maker's woe
3 "At Swim, Two Boys" writer Jamie
4 Cartoonist who drew Santa
5 Lech of Greek lore
6 "M. Butterfly" actor Jeremy
7 First name in Dick Button's field
8 Nemesis of Tinkerbell
9 It's a long story
10 Samantha's witchy cousin
11 Olivier of stage and film
12 Tammy Baldwin's party symbol
13 Porter's "I ___ a Kick Out of You"
21 Type of probe
22 Henry and June's Anais
26 '50s talk-show pioneer
27 Meas. for Traci des Jardins
29 Zaire's cont.
30 Lahr of "The Wizard of Oz"
31 Bangkok continent
33 Key in
34 Early AIDS play
35 Tank contents (abbr.)
37 Versatile vehicle
38 Pen name of Gore Vidal
39 David, who played the bishop in "The Bishop's Wife"
40 Shine, in some ads
41 Breeder need
44 Way to feel, in a Paul Simon song
45 "___ De-Lovely"
47 Tattooist's tool
48 Less lively
49 Dahl of Hollywood
51 Sat for Diana Davies
52 "Hello" singer
53 S&M types are bound to use them
56 "The Music Man" setting
57 One of Grampa Walton's grandaughters
58 Approaching
59 Johnny Mathis disks
60 Nonpornographic raw material

Find solution to this puzzle at www.pridesource.com


A Couple of guys
by Dave Brousseau
"Moan and Grown"
YOU SPOKE TO WHOM?
MYSELF...AS A YOUNG BOY.
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BUT THEN ANOTHER VERSION OF ME CAME BY. ME AS AN OLD MAN.
e-mail:acoupleofguys@qsyndicate.com
www.facebook.com/acoupleofguys
FUTURE ME ASSURED ME OF A LONG, HAPPY LIFE AND TOLD ME NOT TO WORRY ABOUT WHAT YOUNG ME SAID.
I UNDERSTAND NOW. AS CHILDREN WE VISUALIZE ALL SORTS OF GRAND THINGS IN OUR FUTURES, BUT AS ADULTS WE LEARN TO MAKE THE BEST OF OUR LIVES, SINCE THINGS DON'T ALWAYS WORK OUT THE WAY WE PLAN.
FOR EXAMPLE, I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE HAVING THIS CONVERSATION.
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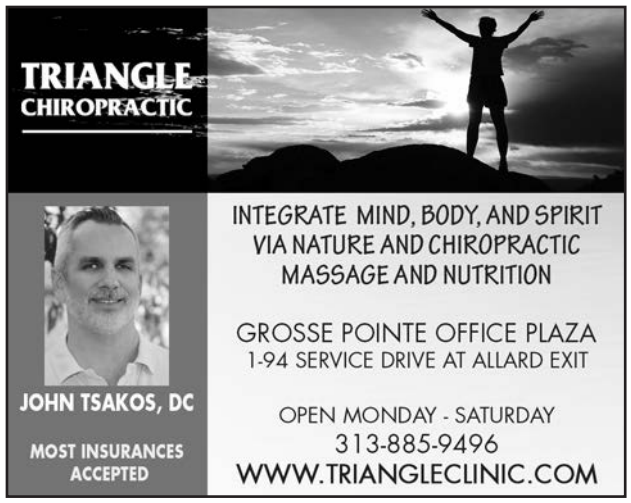
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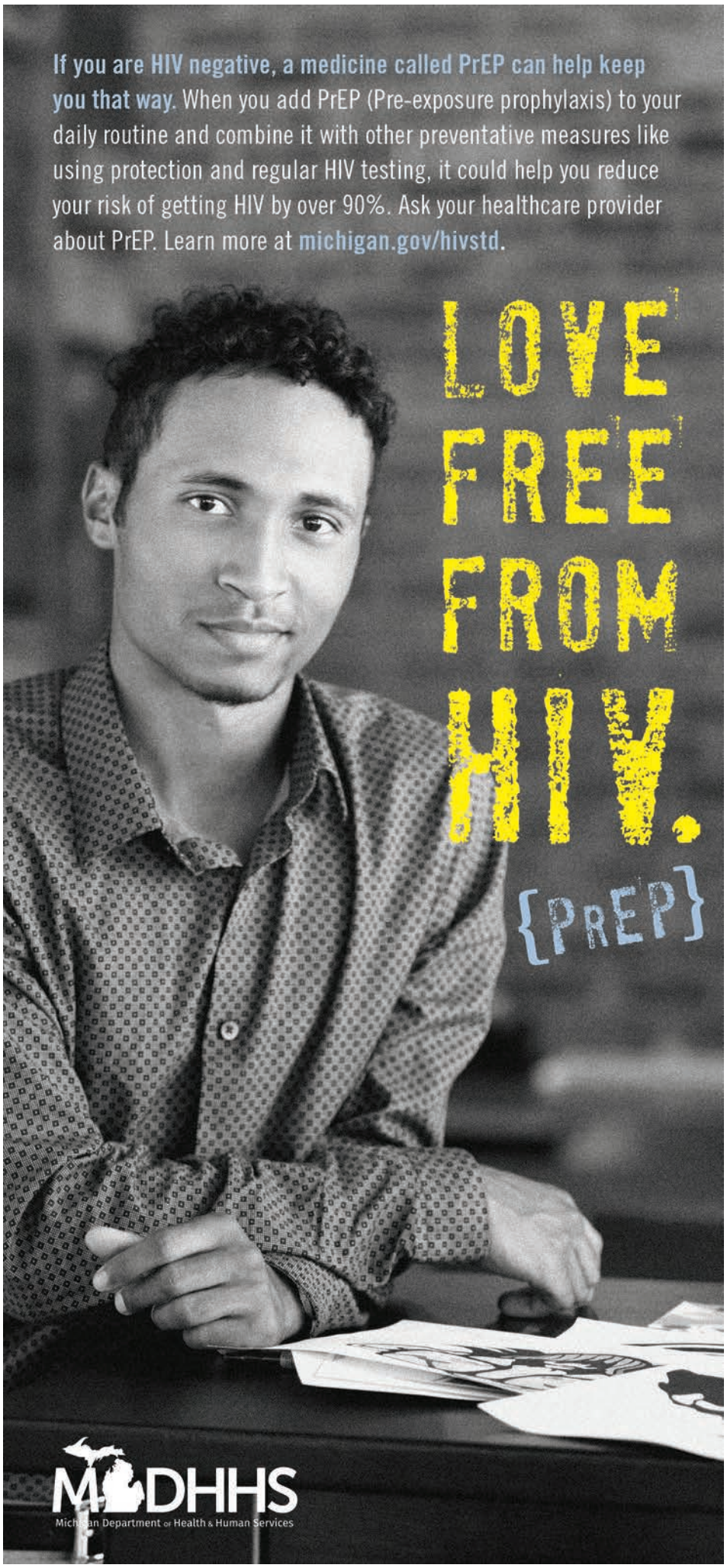
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